

**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 19, 2008**

PRESENT: Ron Pupp, Michelle DuBord, Raquel Mehring, Sara Carpenter, Dennis Farrell, Don Harris, Jenny Hawes, Barb Holtz, Sarah Matson, Mary Wittwer, Megan Esser, Karen Minster

STAFF PRESENT: Peter Slesar, Jesus Mireles

Ron Pupp called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. and introductions were exchanged.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Sara Carpenter made a motion, seconded by Raquel Mehring to approve the minutes of May 15, 2008. The motion was voted on and carried.

BOARD LIAISON REPORT

Dennis Farrell distributed a memorandum to all CAFSAC members from Mr. Joe Vitale. The memo indicates that the Chairman of the Health and Human Services Board, Dennis Farrell, has asked Joe to serve as the liaison to CAFSAC. Joe will be present at a future meeting, and Dennis will be the alternate. One other personal note to keep in our thoughts and prayers is that Oscar Medina is suffering from throat cancer.

Dennis distributed copies of the Health and Human Services Board Budget Issues and the Unmet Needs Recommendations. He noted that several years ago prioritization of the unmet needs became difficult, thus the committee now categorizes and makes the recommendation to endorse. The Budget Review meetings will be on July 21 and July 22, 2008, where each division will present their budget.

ISSUE SEGMENT

Sara Carpenter with Wisconsin Community Services introduced her staff, Mary Wittwer, Megan Esser, and Karen Minster.

Wisconsin Community Services advocates for justice and community safety, providing innovating opportunities for individuals to overcome adversity. The Mediation and Restorative Justice Center Program provides mediation for small claims, community problems, landlord tenant disputes, workplace conflict, youth accountability, kick conflict, teen conflict, and can also accommodate group trainings. The first mediation is free of charge and any additional meetings after that would be charged a fee for service. Juveniles who are referred for a screening for their Juvenile Court Disposition are not charged a fee as this is a contract service that is provided through a grant with the department.

Youth Accountability Program – This program receives its referrals from Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services and the Juvenile Court Judges. The Youth Accountability Panel is an impact panel where juvenile offenders hear from community victims of crime. In this program, youth have the opportunity to avoid the court system altogether. The Mediation and Restorative Justice Center processes six group sessions per year, with ten juveniles in each panel program. Key components are that community volunteers mentor the youth through the process, and parents and guardians also take part in the discussions and help youth move toward a different track.

Kick Conflict Program – Youth who are under a formal supervision order or on the electronic monitoring bracelet may be assigned to this program. The program provides a safe environment for physical activity, kick boxing that positively teaches true discipline, and how to deal with conflict. The goal is to help reduce verbal conflict and help youth develop positive social skills. The Mediation and Restorative Justice Center partners with the Department of Health and Human Services and operates the Waukesha County Teen Court, which offers eligible youth to receive a sentence from a jury of their peers.

Juvenile Community Service Program – This program is responsible for monitoring court-ordered community service on an individual basis by assisting in site placement, tracking the hours served and reporting compliance to juvenile authorities. The main goal is to foster the juvenile's understanding of the importance in taking responsibility for their actions and accountability to their victims by meeting their community service obligations. Another key point is to establish new sites and keep positive relationships with existing sites. This not only benefits the community as the cost of the labor is free, exposes youth to the work site and gives them a valuable skill to help them locate a job, but also gives them a feeling of accomplishment and self worth.

Intensive Tracking – This program began in 1990 as part of a pilot study working with Wisconsin Community Services and the Juveniles from correctional facilities, and then releasing them back into the community with intensive supervision. In 1993, a strong emphasis was placed on returning them home to their same environment by means of the electronic monitoring bracelet home detention. Caseworkers were available 24/7 for crisis intervention to prevent verbal and physical conflicts in the home. In 2007, 1,854 after hour calls were field by this department for treatment plan or court order decisions. These clients were high risk facing placement out of their home.

Success stories were shared by each staff person. A question and answer period followed.

PARTNERSHIPS FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH

No Report.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ron Pupp reported that the Nominating Committee met this past week and has recommended James Pearson as co-Chair for the remaining months of 2008 and Chair in 2009.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on July 17, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. at the Menomonee Falls Municipal building, W156 N8480 Pilgrim Road in Menomonee Falls.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.

Approved on _____
(Date)